

**Minutes**  
**Black Creek Watershed Coalition**  
Tuesday February 15, 2005

Present: Rochelle Bell, Monroe County Department of Planning and Development;  
George Squires, Genesee County SWCD; Robert Remillard USDA NRCS  
Lakes Plains RC&D; Charlie Knauf, Monroe County Department of Public  
Health; Larry VerWeire, Riga citizen; Pat Tindale, Chili Conservation Board;  
Bob Wilkins Monroe County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board;  
Caroline Myers, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District;  
Dorothy Borgus, Town of Chili citizen

Action items are underlined throughout the minutes.

**Introductions, assignment of roles, questions about minutes**

Introductions were made. Bob Wilkins managed the meeting, Dorothy Borgus was timekeeper, Rochelle Bell was facilitator and Charlie Knauf was scribe. The January 2005 minutes were reviewed. Pat Tindale indicated that the statement attributed to her concerning David Herring comments about the old Railroad Viaduct were incorrect. A corrected statement follows. Pat spoke with Dave Herring about the Greenway Bridge, but he did not indicate that it was the Court St. dam. He mentioned the elevation of the creek versus the elevation of the Genesee River at their confluence was more of the cause than anything. He also indicated all the building in the area that is adding additional problems to this location.

**The Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (GFLRPC) Great Lakes Commission Grant.** The letter went out the Thursday before the BCWC meeting to the municipalities asking to schedule meetings. On Friday GFLRPC got 2 calls to schedule, and by the 15<sup>th</sup> almost all meetings had been scheduled Chili has not been scheduled but is important as the codes are currently being rewritten. The meeting schedule is:

- 2/16: Town of Batavia, 8:00, George Squires in attendance
- Town of Ogden 6:00, Charlie Knauf in attendance
- 3/3: Town of Wheatland, 7:30 Charlie Knauf in attendance
- 3/7: Village of Churchville, 7:15 Charlie Knauf in attendance
- 3/8: Town of Sweden, 7:30, Robert Remillard in attendance
- 3/9: Town of Byron, 7:30
- 3/10: Town of Elba, 7:30
- 3/14: Town of Riga, 7:00
- 3/23: Village of Bergen, 7:00
- 3/24: Town of LeRoy, 7:00
- 4/12: Town of Bergen, 7:00
- 5/11: Town of Middlebury, 8:00

The Erosion study is close to getting projects to fund. R. Bell indicated WQCC's as possible funding sources, using Aid to Localities funding. Once the municipal meetings are completed, GFLRPC will begin completing the assessment forms.

**Other Grants:** The Great Lakes Commission program was announced with a deadline of March 1, 2005. This was the program GFLRPC is working under, and may be a good source of implementation monies in the spring of 2006 when GFLRPC is finished. L. Van Were asked if there is a central grant authority. C. Knauf explained past attempts to track and centralize the grants process and the dynamics of this effort; grants and timeframes keep changing and there is no consistency between state, federal, and private or quasi-private entities. For Federal Water related grants there is the Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund>. P. Tindale asked about the DEC packet for the Environmental Protection Fund. C. Myers indicated that Riga is applying for a new salt storage structure under this program. There was some discussion of salt storage structures and alternative designs. L. Van Were again wondered if there is no central clearinghouse, and commented that this might be viewed as a gap that could be filled by a business. C. Knauf answered that it might not be profitable as many of the grant programs do not even allow charging for the time spent in applying for the grants. R. Bell will talk to D. Zorn about a second application for Great Lakes Commission funding. C. Myers indicated that the Genesee River Implementation grant for Agricultural non-point source implementation, a joint Monroe/Genesee/Wyoming county project ranked 7<sup>th</sup>, and should therefore get funded. This was written for things like Silage Leachate collection system upgrades and manure storage BMP implementation, and includes a number of farms in the Black Creek watershed. It was announced that the FLOWPA special Projects fund would be announced the following Thursday. (Ed. note. The Genesee County project for the Black Creek watershed signage and brochure was not selected in the 2005 round).

**The Display Board:** R. Bell said that the banner has been a problem but that it has been solved by Steve Olefson of MCPlanning and her. G. Squires indicated he would take the board to Bergen for the meeting there.

**Website:** Carol Zolweg has been keeping it up. Ogden has a link to the website on their town site, but Chili, Wheatland and Sweden don't. P. Tindale offered to check on Chili. There is also a link on the WEC website and a few other places. C. Myers offered to put a link on the MC SWCD site. If anyone has anything to be included in the website, please get it to Rochelle.

**Conferences:** C. Knauf asked about the upcoming Soil and Water event to take place in Rochester. G. Squires answered that the Conservation District Employees Association Workshops are scheduled for 3/21 to 3/24 at the Clarion, and that these were also open to WQCC members. C. Myers offered to fax the information to C. Knauf. There is also going to be a Soil and Water Conservation Association National Convention held in Rochester in August, and C. Myers said she has been asked to assemble an opening ceremony, ideally with the County Executive welcoming convention goers and a photo presentation on water in western NY. They are looking for something that is already complete, but C. Knauf offered to help with photos if something needs to be assembled, and also mentioned the Lewis County FLOWPA special project on water resources in NY.

**Coastal Initiative:** It was mentioned that the Center for Environmental Information has received a \$500,000 appropriation from Congressman Walsh for the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative. Attendees wondered why Black Creek was not included in this initiative if Oatka Creek was. C. Knauf explained that the designation of “Oatka Creek to Mouth” indicated the segment of the Genesee River from the mouth of Oatka Creek to the mouth of the River, and that the initiative had limited itself to only the Bottom ends of the major Lake Ontario Tributaries, the Genesee, Oswego, and Black Rivers. P. Tindale also mentioned that the WRAPS document recently published by GFLRPC failed to include the Little Black Creek watershed. (Ed. note. Little Black Creek is included as part of the Oatka Creek to Mouth segment of the Genesee River, on page 98 of the WRAPS report. It was announced that there will be a conference on the Coastal Initiative on May 5 and 6 at the Clarion in Rochester.

**Newsletter:** R. Remillard will underwrite publication and mailing of a newsletter to be mailed from the RCS+D office. BCWC Members are asked to check the mailing list provided by R. Bell for areas where they know people and insure that the list is correct, and not redundant. Communicate changes to R. Bell. E-mail ideas for articles to R. Bell or R. Remillard.

**Agricultural Environmental Management Plan (AEM):** C. Myers circulated the draft AEM for Monroe County, which focuses on the west side of the County. This is a voluntary process for farms, and involves levels of operational assessment and implementation of Best Management Practices, and follow-up evaluation of effectiveness. Black Creek is the priority watershed in the plan as it is on the Priority Waterbodies List (PWL). The Coalition takes a role in the plan by encouraging participation, communicating any research findings of which we are aware to the SWCD, informing the SWCD of needs within the watershed, and getting feedback on implementations to the municipalities and the SWCD. The plan is a conservation planning tool, that seeks to find that a farm is being run in an environmentally sound way. The AEM covers non-CAFO farms, and serves as an inventory, so that when the CAFO process comes down to smaller farm units, NYS is ready to respond.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on 3/16/2005 at the Chili Town Hall.  
**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEETING TIME HAS BEEN CHANGED TO 06:30 FOR THIS MEETING ONLY.**